

REMARKS

Claims 44-78 are pending, with claims 44, 48, 50, 64, and 77 being independent. Claims 1-43 are canceled by this amendment without waiver or prejudice. Claims 32-43 are canceled due to the restriction requirement. Claims 48-78 are added by this amendment. No new matter is being added.

Claims 1-4 and 24-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Snyder (6,643,641). With respect to canceled claims 1-4 and 24-29, this rejection is rendered moot.

Applicants thank the examiner for allowing claims 44-47 and for indicating that claims 5-23, 30, and 31 are allowable if rewritten in independent form. New claims 48-78 have been added to place claims 5-14, 17, 18, 20-23, 30, and 31 in appropriate form as well as to include some additional new dependent claims as indicated below.

New independent claim 48 is similar to canceled claim 5 and new dependent claim 49 is similar to canceled dependent claim 6.

New independent claim 50 is similar to canceled claim 7 and new dependent claims 51-57 are similar to canceled claims 8-14. Additional new dependent claims 58-63 have been added.

New independent claim 64 is similar to canceled claim 17 and new dependent claims 65, 66, 70, 73, and 74 are similar to canceled claims 18 and 20-23. Additional new dependent claims 67-69, 71, 72, 75, and 76 have been added.

New independent claim 77 is similar to canceled claim 30 and new dependent claim 78 is similar to canceled dependent claim 31.

Applicants believe that all claims are in condition for allowance.

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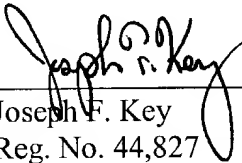
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Serial No. : 09/749,629
Filed : December 28, 2000
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A check in the amount of \$110 is for the extension of time fee. During prosecution of this application, please apply any deficiencies or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 09/07/2004



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